

Announcements.

ACADEMY—2—A. Underhill.
 AMERICAN THEATRE—2—The Carbonari.
 BROADWAY THEATRE—2—The City Directory.
 CASINO—8—The Tyrolean.
 COLUMBUS THEATRE—8—Little Truck.
 DAILY'S THEATRE—2—3—The Last Word.
 EDWIN MUSKE—Was Tabouret.
 GARDEN THEATRE—8—La Cigale.
 GRAND OPERA HOUSE—2—Mr. Wilkinson's Widows.
 HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8—Amy Holst.
 HARRISON'S THEATRE—2—8—Belle and the 400.
 HERMAN'S THEATRE—2—8—The Junior Partner.
 HOTEL MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8—30—A Trip to Chateau.
 KOSTER & BIAL'S—2—8—Vaudville.
 LYCEUM THEATRE—8—13—Lady Hamilton.
 METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—11—Trovatore.
 NEW PARK THEATRE—8—15—Sham Elbo.
 NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—9 a. m. to 9 and 7:30 to 10 p. m.—Art Union Exhibition.
 NILES'—2—8—The Athlete.
 PALMER'S THEATRE—8—13—Alabama.
 PROCTOR'S THEATRE—2—8—13—The Last Paradise.
 STAR THEATRE—8—13—New Hope.
 STANBARD THEATRE—8—13—Enoch.
 TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE—8—Vaudville.
 THALIA THEATRE—8—Die Heimannsacht.
 UNION SQUARE THEATRE—2—8—13—The Cadi.
 14TH STREET THEATRE—2—8—Mavrounen.

Furman, of Troy, and granted by him, restraining the Democrat whom Mr. Hill put in the place of Mr. Hoffman, the Republican County Clerk of Dutchess County, from forwarding to Albany the correct returns for Senator. This new clerk of Dutchess displays the same spirit which the Governor has shown in all these proceedings, and evidently feels in no danger of suffering the fate of his predecessor. An application will be made in Brooklyn to-day to have Judge Furman's order vacated.

"LAISSEZ FAIRE."

As a rule, THE TRIBUNE finds the English language sufficient for conveying its views and expressing its opinions, but the French phrase "laissez faire" expresses so clearly the indifference with which the public regards the present political situation in this State, and its significance is so generally understood, that no excuse is needed for its use. The relation of the gentleman who is now exercising the functions of Chief Executive of this State and holding in abeyance the other important office of United States Senator to current politics is so unusual, so anomalous, that one would suppose it might excite extensive comment. We cannot recall an instance in our political history where one man has so undisguisedly and with such absolute assurance assumed so many and such diverse powers and functions as the present Governor of this State. But beyond a few scattered comments, which relate rather to the questions of good taste and judgment involved than to the essential consideration of dangerous precedent which the situation presents, there seems to be not much feeling anywhere upon the subject. People appear to be saying, "Let it go." "Who cares?" and viewing the whole complication with almost absolute indifference. In our view of it this condition of public opinion illustrates the perfect confidence we all feel in the stability and permanence of our institutions, and the fixed conviction that no matter what height personal selfish ambition may aspire or what temporary successes it may attain, it will in the end simply clear itself and tumble to some ridiculous ending without having done any serious damage to the general welfare.

We have so successfully outlived the Benedict Arnolds and Aaron Burrs and Jefferson Davises and Boss Tweeds that we have come to look upon any effort of a single man or a ring to grasp unusual power as rather ridiculous than dangerous. Instead of being awakened to a sense of peril or feeling anything like alarm at the absorption of power in the hands of a scheming leader or a powerful ring, we say: "Oh, let them go on; give them rope enough and they will presently hang themselves." There's a cheerful optimism about all this which is not without its pleasing side. But, after all, is there not something in the present political situation in this State which should awaken serious thought instead of being passed over with indifference? It is not a particularly pleasant reflection for a citizen of the State of New York that we are so destitute of statesmen, so barren of competent and intelligent men of affairs, so weak in executive ability and so feeble in lawmaking skill that only one man among us is fit to be Governor of the State and at the same time to represent it in the highest legislative body in the land. But that is what Mr. David B. Hill is saying every one of these December days, and what we are all listening to, if not with perfect complacency, at least without any demonstration of condemnation or disgust. There were other men in his own party willing to accept the office of United States Senator, and not less fit than he, who could have entered upon its duties without other official entanglement. But he stepped in and took it. Not content with that, he said, with sublime assurance: "I am so important to the State as its Governor that I must continue to do that office also," and so continues to hold both.

Not only that, but with unparalleled greed of power and shameless audacity he has signaled his retention of the Executive office by prostituting its functions to the basest of partisan uses in a high-handed attempt to force upon the State a Legislature, not of the people's, but of his own choosing. It might be added, though they are matters of minor consequence, that besides the multifarious functions he has thus engrossed he has put himself in absolute control of the organization of his party in the State, and by unseemly interference with the preliminary proceedings in the organization of the branch of Congress of which he is not a member has reached out for unlimited control of his party in the Nation. In other countries a man of such overweening conceit and overpowering ambition, with such resources as he has shown of cunning, craft and chicanery, would be considered dangerous. There have been times when he would have been so considered here, and aroused public sentiment would have administered a reproof so indignant and so forceful that even he could not help feeling it through his brazen assurance and pachydermatous conceit. But the popular mood to-day is apparently that of indifference, and the disposition is to "give him rope enough." We are not pessimists, but we have heretofore taken occasion to say that David B. Hill is a dangerous man; a man to be watched. We repeat it.

There is a radical mistake made by nearly all Democratic journals in their treatment of the Hill complications. They assume that the ill-will displayed by the Southern republic toward the United States is attributable to special causes, such as the diplomatic course of the State Department at the close of the war with Peru, the pursuit of the Itata, the naval manoeuvres of the American fleet and recent proceedings of Minister Egan. They contend that Hillian resentment has been caused by the overbearing and meddlesome conduct of the State Department in these matters, and that when it culminated in the assault upon the Baltimore men at Valparaiso Americans were simply reaping what they had sown. This general view is grounded upon misapprehension of the essential cause of Hillian hostility to the United States. Hill is inhibited by the most patriotic, enterprising and ambitious race in South America. It is the only nation in that quarter of the world which has waged successful wars of conquest and enlarged its territories at the expense of its rivals. It is the most aggressive country in tropical America, and has the best fighting stock in its army and its navy. By its victories in the West Coast war and by the development of its commercial marine and mining and agricultural interests it has secured a position of prominence in the Southern Hemisphere. It is in the northern half of the continent alone that Chili has any rival to dispute its ascendancy in the American family of nations. For that reason a patriotic and vainglorious race dislikes the United States. Any one who has had personal acquaintance with Chilians in their own country knows that they are inordinately jealous of the United States. It is this feeling of jealousy which promotes sensitiveness and irritation whenever the two countries are brought into diplomatic relations. Chili, having no rivals whom she fears on the West Coast, and proudly asserting her ascendancy among the Southern republics, is always disposed to cherish resentments against the Northern Commonwealth.

This feeling was entertained by Balmaceda no less than by the Congressional leaders who are now in power. A year before the civil war which resulted disastrously for his Government he sent delegates to the Pan-American Congress who were markedly hostile to the proposed international policy because they chose to assume that it embodied the leadership of the United States in a continental league of nations. Those delegates were unceasing in their efforts to thwart the aims of that diplomatic conference, and in many ways revealed the national jealousy of the United States. There had been no Itata episode; there had been no diplomatic controversies over rights of asylum; and there had been no American cruisers on the West Coast of Chili; but hostility and jealousy existed and were plainly shown.

The United States is so pacific in its foreign relations and so well-disposed toward all the world that it is not easy for Americans to be convinced that there is a nation on this continent that dislikes them and would be well pleased if it ever had a chance of sending its best cruisers north to shell San Francisco. Nevertheless, that is the fact, and our people may as well recognize it. That the feeling of resentment is not returned it is almost needless to add. Americans have every reason for liking the Chilians for their fine qualities as a race and for their progressive tendencies as a nation. It ought to be one of the chief aims of American diplomacy to restore the friendliest possible relations with Chili; but in order to do this a firm, uncompromising stand must be taken whenever the honor of the United States is at stake, as it has been in the Itata affair and in the Valparaiso outrages. It would be the worst possible result, if through weakness, timorousness and indulgence on the part of the United States Chili should find cause for a vainglorious feeling that it had triumphed over its great rival. That would be sowing dishonor, and the reaping would come in a future West Coast war.

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FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

No part of the President's Message is better entitled to impartial and earnest consideration than that in which he describes some of the evils of our election system and suggests the appointment of a commission to devise a way of removing or mitigating them. This subject ought to be soberly discussed in Congress and among the people. If the elements of danger are not removed while the times are tranquil we may suddenly find ourselves confronted by an emergency of the most serious character. It is not reasonable to trust that the future will repeat the fortunate escapes of the past. The public has been singularly indifferent to the probability that perils would arise at some day to vex if not to embroil the country. It is only within a half dozen years that the great question of the Presidential succession has been settled. Numerous points relating to the life and powers of the Electoral Colleges still remain undetermined. It is conceivable, for instance, that it might be a matter of the utmost importance that the electors of a State should be able to reconvene and act. But it is very doubtful if any power to reassemble and take valid action remains to them after the College has been once dissolved.

The general subject of Federal elections was impressed upon the President's mind by the specific enactment of the last Michigan Legislature providing for the choice of electors by districts. It is not pretended by any one in Michigan or elsewhere that this law was passed in obedience to a general and deliberate conviction that the prevailing system was intrinsically bad. It was passed simply because the Democrats who were in power in that State saw a chance to make sure of electoral votes which would otherwise be lost to their party. The Constitution of the United States provides that each State shall appoint electors "in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct," and, relying upon this, the Legislature of Michigan directed that they should be appointed in a manner which will insure the accomplishment of a partisan purpose. The Democrats of Michigan claim that this is a right which the Constitution gives them. Assuming that they are legally justified—a point upon which Constitutional lawyers are not agreed—sagacious and fair-minded men must acknowledge that a piece of sharp practice like this, reversing the custom which has prevailed in all the States since the War and in all the States but one for sixty years, based on no consideration of permanent public welfare or convenience, but adopted merely for the temporary advantage of a party, is dangerous in tendency and may become disastrous in effect. It suggests imitation and invites reprisals, threatens to plunge our Presidential elections in confusion, and even involves the possibility of passionate and bloody conflicts.

The probable consequences of such a partisan innovation are illustrated by the belief now entertained by many political observers that Governor Hill's prime motive for the course he has recently pursued was the expectation that a Democratic Legislature in this State would appoint thirty-six Democratic electors in his interest. It is certain that nothing but distrust of the ultimate net value to himself of such a revolutionary procedure would deter him from attempting it. The conditions which the act of the Michigan Legislature tends to impose upon the country are not such as patriotic citizens like to contemplate. Whatever tricks the Constitution may be stretched to authorize, the purpose of that instrument was to secure a fair and peaceful and undisputed choice of a President; and its spirit is violated by the adoption of devices calculated to promote fraud, contention and uncertainty. The President is right when he declares that uniformity in the method of choosing electors is most desirable. That is not merely the conviction of an individual or of a party. It is fair to say that it is the conviction of the whole American people. Different methods were abandoned one after another by the States, as experience proved their defects, until the principle of uniformity became embodied in universal practice. To revert now to the old diversity is to surrender an important element of National security. Upon this and other considerations suggested by the President's significant warning and recommendation we shall comment further at another time. And we hope that the whole subject will be taken up and discussed dispassionately by the press and by Congress.

NO OCCASION FOR SECRECY.

A few weeks ago our sister city, Brooklyn, was face to face with an appalling disaster. A serious break occurred in the conduit through which its entire water supply is carried, and for a day and a half an absolute water famine was not only imminent but actual. Fortunately, the break was sufficiently repaired within the period named to permit the flow of water to be resumed. Now, the cause of this accident and the responsibility for it constitute one of the most important and interesting questions that can be presented for the consideration of the people of Brooklyn. As is altogether proper, the Commissioner of City Works has, after long deliberation, engaged three eminent engineers, unconnected with his department, to make an investigation, and their work has already begun. There is no doubt of the competency of Messrs. Foley, Worthen and Martin for this task, and whatever conclusions they may arrive at will be accepted by the community without hesitation.

who are to be examined by the experts give their testimony in public? In other words, why should not the investigating engineers conduct their inquiry with open doors and admit the reporters to all their proceedings? Is there anything connected with this most important matter that ought to be concealed? It is the common belief that the crushing of the conduit was the direct result of the fact that the contractors were allowed to pile unlimited quantities of sand on it from their adjacent excavation, and that they were permitted to do this through either carelessness or complacency on the part of the Department of City Works. The public has a right to know all the facts; it ought not to be content merely with the conclusions which the engineers arrive at upon those facts. If Mayor Chapin had any public spirit, he would insist at once upon having this investigation held with wide-open doors. But the insensibility which he has shown as respects public opinion, especially in holding fast to the Mayoralty after accepting a seat in Congress, seems to make an appeal to him hopeless. But City Works Commissioner Adams ought to feel a strong desire to improve his position in the eyes of the community. He has been badly discredited by the water-works accident. A simple request from him would induce the expert engineers to change their policy in this matter. Will not his failure to speak it inevitably lead to the conclusion that he fears the result of a free and open investigation?

THE DISTRESSED FARMER'S BILL.

While Senator Peffer and others are engaged in loading down the Senate and the House with bills for the relief of agricultural distress, it might be well to glance at certain other bills of much more practical value to the farmer, namely, the bills he has presented and been paid, for products sold within a few months. It is true, only a faint conception of the magnitude of these bills can be formed from commercial statistics, because these cover only recorded receipts at very few points. The Boards of Trade and other commercial bodies at the North are content with records of receipts of grain at only nine Western points, and scarcely any records are obtainable of receipts of cattle and hogs, while the sales of farmers to local traders, elevators, and dealers not for shipments through the chief centers there is no record whatever.

Yet the bills which the farmer has presented for grain alone, and only through the dealers of nine Western cities, are of considerable magnitude. Then when the receipts of cotton alone at the few out-ports and at thirty-one interior towns since September 1 are added, without making any account for other Southern farm products, the amount already paid to the farmers is found to be large indeed. Taking the farm prices as they have just been reported by the Agricultural Department, and the recorded receipts at nine points for grain from August 1 to December 5, and at points above named for cotton from September 1 to December 11, the farmer's bill would read substantially thus:

The People to the Farmer, Dr.

Quantities, Farm Prices.	Value.	
Wheat, bushels, 127,375,447	\$5.33 cents	\$1,080,051,650
oats, bushels, 37,512,705	42.2 cents	15,500,290
barley, bushels, 45,115,076	32.4 cents	14,623,654
Rye, bushels, 15,871,579	54.0 cents	8,574,544
Hay, bushels, 11,170,000	27.4 cents	3,059,798
Cotton, bales, 5,206,914	\$29.50	153,605,411
Total value.....		\$2,331,309,957

The distressed farmer already has had his pay for these products at least, and for other products in the aggregate probably worth about as much more. His distress appears to be of a rather unusual type. Manufacturers and merchants generally have to sell on credit, but the farmer sells for cash, if indeed much of the price has not been previously advanced to him in goods or money. Within four months he has taken in more cash than any other branch of trade in the United States takes in during an entire year, and has received better prices than usual for the best crops ever grown, and yet his professed defenders in Congress insist that his great distress needs immediate legislative relief. No doubt it is true that a considerable part of the money the farmer has received has gone to pay debts. A great many farmers owed something on their farms, and have been paying off mortgages this year. Whether they were wise in buying more land than they could pay for is another question. Many other farmers have borrowed money to pay their hands, or to pay for implements and machinery, or had run in debt for supplies to support their hands. Whether it would not have been wiser for them had they saved some working capital for such purposes and bought a little less land is another question. But it is plain enough that the farmer has sold this year enough products already to clear off a vast body of indebtedness, and, moreover, he has barely begun to sell, since the products yet to be sent to market include more than three times as much wheat, more than fifty times as much corn, and fifteen times as much oats as he has yet marketed. His bill thus far covers only part of what he has found time to market in four busy months before the closing of roads and the lakes with winter. And the rest of his bill will arrive after a time.

The only real relief for the farmer reaches him when he has good markets and fair prices for his products. This year he has been helped by a bountiful season, helped by an industrial policy which has built up a multitude of factories and mills crowded with workers who consume his products, helped by Reciprocity which opens better markets abroad, and helped by the misfortunes of agriculture in other countries. The vast network of railroads all over the West is so crammed with cars engaged in moving the farmer's products that the blockade is called a car famine by merchants, and over 20,000 new cars have been ordered within two weeks by only a few of the railroads. Relief for the farmer comes when the rolling wheels of a million cars take his products to market, and not from the speeches or bills of those who talk about his distress.

SOME MYSTERIES EXPLAINED.

The number of strange disappearances reported in the press during the past few months is something remarkable. It has reached the pass that we think no more of reading each morning of the mysterious disappearance of a prominent business or professional man in some part of the country than we do of seeing the account of the death of the oldest Freemason or of the youngest soldier of the late war. We are in the midst of an epidemic of disappearance, and though many men like Wiggins, Peffer, Dyrenforth, and such folks, who ought to disappear, do not, others are constantly going. There is a reason for everything. There must be a reason for this. We believe that we have struck on the correct explanation of these disappearances. It is nothing more nor less, we believe, than a conspiracy on the part of the sleeping-car porters of the country. These unfortunate men who have dropped out of sight have been shut in upper berths by the porters and left to their fate.

an iron hand. Naturally they turned to the dead upper berth. To any one who has ever slept in an upper berth the possibility of their shutting up with an snafu must have occurred. In the early days of sleeping-cars, many prominent men were thus snuffed out. Then a stout twisted wire with a ball on the end of it was attached to the upper shelf. This ball is hooked into a hole in the back of the seat, thus preventing the accidental closing of the elevated berth. But when a large colored man with a dark hand and white eyes unhook this ball, and, after carefully removing any valuables, bumps the berth shut with his head, how is the man going to get out? In point of fact he isn't going to get out at all. When a man in the country jail there is always a good chance that he will get out—that is, if he is guilty—but the man in the closed upper berth stands no show whatever. Still there must be scores of men in this country who are to-day thus bottled up. There is not much room in an upper berth when it is open—what must it be when it is shut?

Let us not, at this season of holiday rejolting forget our brethren who are hermetically sealed in upper berths by the avenging hand of the porter. We should say, indeed, that something ought to be done about it. What does the new Democratic House say to this outrage on the people? Will it rise up and open these upper berths and release these prisoners? We hope so. We can't see that a Democratic House could be better employed.

Milwaukee is bidding in earnest for the Democratic National Convention. The zeal of her citizens in the campaign is matched only by the tact and insight into the elements of the problem displayed in their choice of means to win the Democratic magnates' favor. It will be an impressive sight to see a "booming" committee of 100 marching upon the Executive Committee in Washington, all "dressed in dark clothes with cream-colored trimmings." But this is merely their preliminary argument in the convention conflict. The real substance of Milwaukee's brief will be disclosed when the carload of beer for free distribution, which the leading brewers of the city are preparing to send, is opened and applied to the understandings of the Democratic committee. This will be a signal of victory can hardly be doubted by students of Democratic political history. The other cities who seek the company of the Democratic Convention next summer must find some more cogent inducement than any they have yet put forward. Milwaukee is fighting to win.

The explanation of a mysterious scar on Governor Hill's neck is timely. Except for an official assurance to the contrary it might have been taken for the brand of Cain.

We regret to notice the silence of the free-trade press respecting the reciprocity treaty with Germany and the negotiations now practically concluded with the British sugar islands. The subject does not seem to interest them. Of course, the advantages of these commercial arrangements are so unmitigably to argue that either American exporting interests or the foreign consumers, who are to have cheaper food, will suffer from the work of the State Department. But they generally feel at liberty to assume the constitutionality of the Reciprocity amendment, and to charge the State Department with foul play on the strength of strictly private and confidential information in their possession. We cannot understand their self-restraint on this occasion.

Senator Proctor's valuable experience in the War Department is already showing itself in his new office. He has introduced a bill to promote the administration of justice in the army. Of course any measure on this subject emanating from such a source is entitled to special consideration, and Senator Proctor will be in a position to advocate it with fuller and exacter knowledge than any one else.

Mr. Henry W. Knight, a prominent Methodist layman of this city, says that Methodists are neglecting their duties, especially in the large cities. This is a somewhat harsh way of putting it. It is a fact that Methodism does not show the same relative increase in the large cities that flourish most in the country and in the smaller towns. But this is due to its peculiar ecclesiastical character and organization, rather than to any failure on the part of its members in the great cities to do their duty. In fact, the Methodist most enlightened and progressive members of the Church, and, as every one knows, the best preachers of the denomination take their turn in ministering to the churches in the large cities. If, in spite of these facts, and in spite of its faithful and valiant efforts to maintain itself, Methodism is declining in the large centres of population, it must be because there is something in the system of Methodism that makes it less successful than other religious bodies in coping with the complex problems of urban life.

If the authorship of Governor Hill's Elmira speech is to remain a mystery until somebody comes forward to claim it, and if the author ever does yearn for recognition, the chances are that he will have to reprint the speech at his own expense in order that the public may know what it is that he is claiming.

In the British West Indies there is a low tariff on clothing, haberdashery, shoes, and every line of manufactures which the English residents there import. Then there is a high tariff on all the American food products and necessities, of life which the population require. The luxuries are cheapened for the benefit of English manufacturers and colonists; and the price of necessities is raised so as to make the food of the negroes dear and to shift the financial burden of supporting the Government upon exports from the American market, where the bulk of the produce of the islands is sold. Reciprocity is smashing this peculiar system of English free trade.

The Board of Park Commissioners will be called upon to-day to consider the petition of the Naval Reserve Association to be allowed the use of Castle Garden as an armory. No better home could be imagined for the Naval Reserve; now a homeless organization, than Castle Garden. The strategic value of the position of the old fort is beyond question. The advisability of having some militia organization domiciled in the lower part of the city can admit of little doubt. The petition is endorsed by men whose names cannot fail to carry weight, and it is difficult to see on what grounds it can be refused. It probably will not be. The Naval Reserve is a most popular organization, and the members of the Park Board are men whose intelligence will at once enable them to see the adaptability of Castle Garden for the purposes of the Naval Reserve, and the advantages of having the Naval Reserve domiciled there.

It is broadly intimated that the milk in the co-conant as respects the disturbance of the Municipal Civil Service Commission is that Tammany Hall thinks itself entitled to the three vacant police sergeantships. Of course, then, Tammany doesn't want any Civil Service examination to interfere with its distribution of so much spoils. The idea seems to be to postpone the examinations already announced until the Legislature can have a chance to take these comfortable life places out of the line of competition. It is a nice little Tammany scheme, and we are bound to say, an eminently characteristic one. But it is likely that a Republican Senate will do anything to help it along.

There is yet needed to complete the Washington Arch the sum of \$21,000, some unexpected expenses having been incurred in the progress of the work. Of this amount, \$4,000 is wanted at once, in order to complete a certain portion of

the arch before suspending work for the winter. This memorial of our great celebration in 1895 is to be a most creditable structure, architecturally and aesthetically, and there ought to be no difficulty in obtaining the money required to carry it to completion in accordance with the admirable design of Mr. White. New-York is pledged to this enterprise, which is now far advanced, and must see it through handsomely.

PERSONAL.

General Butler continues to make steady progress toward recovery, but it is slow work. As yet he is not able to leave his house.
 Ex-Senator Wallace, of Pennsylvania, who was obliged to make an assignment some months ago, is in a fair way to get on his feet financially. The count has vacated the assignment, and the management of his property now returns to his own hands.
 Dr. M. Cornelius, pastor of the Eastern Presbyterian Church of Washington, has refused several offers of salaries much larger than that he now receives from other cities, although he has been at the capital but little more than a year.
 Van Dyck, the Wagner tenor, is only thirty years old. When he went to Paris in 1883 he was to study journalism, although he was fond of music, and he soon became attached to the staff of "La Patrie." It happened one evening that Ydys's cantata was to be performed publicly at the French capital, and the tenor, Ward, was ill. With fear and trembling Van Dyck agreed to sing the role, and his success handsomely determined his future career. But during most of the time since then he has devoted himself mainly to Wagner's music.

It has been mentioned in THE TRIBUNE AND AFTER that speaker Crisp is the son of an actor and actress. A few months after his birth his parents played an engagement in Boston. This was in the summer of 1846, and the opening play was "The Rivals." Mr. Crisp's character was Mac Acres, and he is said to have played it well. Mrs. Crisp is well remembered for her exquisite impersonation of Mrs. Merrills. In fact, in the several parts for which they were cast, they succeeded in making favorable impressions. Another son, Harry Crisp, also went on the stage, and became well known in Boston and New-York. He was older than Charles F. Frau Dr. Emily Koplein, who is well remembered in this country since her tour here a year ago, has made a fresh attempt to secure a license to lecture on international law in the University of Zurich. The Faculty of Jurisprudence consented provided that the Senate of the University should ratify the arrangement. But her application was refused by a vote of the Senate. These odds, however, were not as great as those of three years ago, when a similar proposal was acted upon. The objection was not personal to Dr. Koplein, but was directed to the admission of women as academic students.

THE TALK OF THE DAY

Says an official of the Hirsch Fund in this city: "You would be surprised at the progress made by the first of the unfortunate who came to this country assisted by Baron Hirsch three months ago if you cared to look into the matter. There were about 200 in the first batch, and they remained here in New-York, although here has little or nothing, and they were provided with the bare necessities as they required them. They were men without any experience or knowledge beyond those that prevailed in Russia, but within a month only one or two applied for any of the benefits of the fund, and now all of them are self-supporting and apparently in a fair way to what undoubtedly must seem to them to be real prosperity. Some of these unfortunate become makers of clothing, other pedlers, and one or two secured places in large wholesale establishments as porters and the like. The remainder took what came to hand, and are supporting their large families by their own efforts."

A few days before Thanksgiving a gentleman asked a prominent broker in Wall Street if it was a bull market. "Of course it is a bull market," replied the broker, "don't you know that on next Thursday there will be 40,000 ministers preaching bull arguments? We do not advise our clients, however, to base the strength of their optimism, but the broker's joke raises the query whether all sermons ought not to be bull sermons.—Congregationalist.

The Princess Mary Victoria, whose father, by the way, used to be called the Duke of Teck, because of his impecuniosity, is, according to "The Boston Transcript," a good-natured, sunny young person of respectable middle-class appearance, whose hair is not dressed as English young women and New-England young women of good family are accustomed to dress theirs, but is the much-trimmed, curled and brought-down-to-the-forehead way which is fashionable in Vienna and St. Louis.

After the Ball.—She has papa asked you your income?—He—Well, I'm sorry. He borrowed \$50 from me on the spot.—Smith, Lovell & Co's Monthly.

"Old Professor Lowell Mason," says a gossip in "The Boston Courier," "possessed a rich fund of humor and was very popular with young people, and the rehearsals of his large choir of nearly a hundred good-natured, sunny young person of respectable middle-class appearance, whose hair is not dressed as English young women and New-England young women of good family are accustomed to dress theirs, but is the much-trimmed, curled and brought-down-to-the-forehead way which is fashionable in Vienna and St. Louis.

A Lucid Interval. (Things one would rather have expressed differently.)—Doctor—How is the patient this morning?—Nurse—Well, he's been wandering a good deal in his mind. Early this morning he said "I think that was an old woman that ministered to me." I think that was about the last really rational remark he made.—(London Punch.

The Christmas numbers of our neighbors, "Puck" and "Judge," are excellent this year, and after looking them over one finds it hard to say which is the better. But they both show many evidences of improvement over previous issues.

A smart little woman got into the street-car the other day with a baby in her arms. It was as still as a lamb, but, however, it changed its course. It began a loud tune. The mother took the baby and stood it straight up in her lap. It yelled just the same. She hugged it to her bosom. It yelled right along. She stroked it and soothed it. It still louder yells. She looked its ears. Prolonged and spasmodic yells. She changed her plans. She cleared a space all around, set the baby down, loosened the handskerchiefs on its neck, gave it plenty of room and then said in her loudest tones: "That is a male child."

"Now, dearie, let it go as loud as you can."
 Baby never uttered a sound.
 "I thought you would," she said.
 She took it up in her lap, the gentleman released their seats, and the car trundled on.—(Arkansas Traveller.

A THOROUGHLY NON-PARTISAN MATTER.—From THE BOSTON JOURNAL.
 Secretary Foster expresses a sentiment which will be echoed by the great body of the American people when he says that if there ever was a question of ought to be treated independently of party politics, it is that of immigration.

THE TESTIMONY OF AN EXPERT.—From THE BOSTON HERALD.
 There doesn't seem to be any question that Mr. Springer, of Illinois, is the man to lead the Democrats in Congress. Mr. Springer, of Illinois, intimates as much himself.

THE TARIFF ON WORKS OF ART.—From THE CHICAGO NEWS.
 Every American citizen who values art culture should lend his support to the movement to abolish the tariff on art objects. The development of American art must necessarily for many years be dependent upon Old World ideals. To subject the old masters to sordid taxation and to curb the aspirations of struggling artists is to invite a total stagnation of the art for defence on any material grounds.

BETTER OFF, THOUGH, THAN NEXT MONTH.—From THE ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT.
 New-York is a pretty good-sized State, but it will have only one Senator, that is, during the first month of its session of Congress.

ALAS, TOO TRUE! —From THE BOSTON HERALD.
 Mr. Reed observes that the Democrats in Congress are bound to do everything they ought not to do, which recalls the remark of Mr. Pynchon's wife going to her little brother: "Go and see what the baby is doing and tell him he mustn't!"

DOES AMBITION MAKE COWARDS? —From THE CHICAGO INTELLIGENCER.
 Governor Cleveland would never play the part that Governor Hill is said to play. He would be the same to admit to open his mouth to concede the crime.